

IN THE CLAIMS:

1. A latch assembly adapted for attachment to a door in a door frame, the latch assembly comprising:
 - 5 a) a base having a recessed working channel, an aperture, and a stop positioned in the working channel;
 - b) a shaft extending through the aperture, said shaft having a nut cap end and a rotational limiter, said rotational limiter being positioned in said working channel; and
 - 10 c) a handle fixed to the shaft whereby the handle and shaft are at least partially rotatable with respect to the base between a first position and a second position, the handle having a head portion connecting to the shaft, a grasping portion extending from the head portion, the head portion configured for engagement with the base portion the head portion including a nut receiving area and a protruding positioning member, the nut receiving area adapted for positioning over the nut cap end, the protruding positioning member adapted for positioning in said working channel.
- 15 2. The latch assembly of claim 1, said stop comprising a first end and a second end wherein the stop is fixedly positioned within said working channel.
- 20 3. The latch assembly of claim 2, said base further comprising a support stem positioned in said aperture, said support stem adapted for engagement to said shaft.
- 25 4. The latch assembly of claim 3, wherein said stop is arcuate in shape.
5. The latch assembly of claim 4, said base further comprising an index pin extending from said base.
6. The latch assembly of claim 5, said base comprising a mounting face having a gasket adapted for sealing engagement to a door.
7. The latch assembly of claim 6, wherein said shaft is rotatably engaged to said support stem.
- 30 8. The latch assembly of claim 7, wherein said rotational limiter is integral to said nut cap end.

9. The latch assembly of claim 8, said rotational limiter comprising a third end and a fourth end, said fourth end being adapted to engage said first end of said stop during rotation of said handle from said first position to said second position.
10. The latch assembly of claim 1, wherein said stop and said rotational limiter are disposed at substantially opposite locations within said working channel.
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11. The latch assembly of claim 10, wherein said protruding positioning member is arcuate in shape.
12. The latch assembly according to claim 11, said protruding positioning member comprising a fifth end and a sixth end.
- 10 13. The latch assembly according to claim 12, wherein said protruding positioning member is disposed in said working channel between said stop and said rotational limiter, said fifth end adapted to engage said second end and said sixth end adapted to engage said third end when said handle is at said first position.
14. The latch assembly according to claim 13, wherein said fifth end engages said second end and said fourth end engages said first end when said handle is at said second position.
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15. The latch assembly according to claim 14, said handle further comprising a lock bore through said head portion proximate to said aperture.
16. The latch assembly according to claim 15, said handle further comprising a base engagement face and a cavity extending through said base engagement face.
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17. The latch assembly according to claim 16, wherein said protruding positioning member is adapted for positioning in said working channel between said second end and said third end.
18. The latch assembly according to claim 17, further comprising a fastener passing through said aperture for engagement to said shaft for attachment of said handle to said shaft and rotational engagement of said handle and said shaft to said base.
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19. The latch assembly according to claim 18, further comprising an escutcheon engaged to said shaft.
20. The latch assembly according to claim 19, said escutcheon comprising; a plurality of graspers adapted to engage said shaft.
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21. The latch assembly according to claim 20, further comprising a lock disposed in

said lock bore.

22. The latch assembly according to claim 21, said lock comprising a locking cylinder having a shaft having an actuator; and a locking barrier having an acceptor said acceptor adapted for engagement to said actuator, said locking barrier positioned in said

5 lock cavity wherein said locking barrier is movable out of said lock cavity and into said working channel when said handle is in said first position.

23. The latch assembly according to claim 22, the handle comprising a loop adapted for receiving a padlock.

24. The latch assembly of claim 23, wherein the base further comprises an index pin, the index pin projecting into the surface of a door to prevent rotation of the base relative to the door.